

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00 ICA-11
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 09817

DEPT PASS DEA

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, SNAR, MX
SUBJECT: MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL ANNOUNCES ESTABLISHMENT
OF COMPUTER.

1. MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL OSCAR FLORES SANCHEZ RECENTLY
ANNOUNCED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMPUTER SYSTEM FOR HIS
DEPARTMENT. FLORES STATED THAT THE CREATION OF THE SYSTEM
WAS PART OF HIS PROGRAM OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS DESIGNED
TO MAKE HIS SECRETARIAT MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF TH
PEOPLE AND TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF MEXICAN CITIZENS.
FLORES SUGGESTED THAT THE PUBLIC COULD USE THE COMPUTER TO
DETERMINE IF A PERSON HAD BEEN ARRESTED AND WHAT THE CUR-
RENT STATUS OF A PARTICULAR CASE MIGHT BE. HE ADDED THAT
THE COMPUTER WOULD HELP PROTECT THE PUBLIC FROM POSSIBLE
EXTORTION AND ABUSE AT THE HANDS OF CORRUPT OFFICIALS IN
HIS DEPARTMENT. THE COMPUTER, WHICH WILL BE LOCATED IN
MEXICO CITY, WILL HAVE TERMINALS IN GUADALAJARA, CULIACAN,
MONTERREY, TIJUANA, CHIHUAHUA, NUEVO LAREDO, AND PUEBLA.

2. FLORES HAS MADE A NUMBER OF OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE MOVES
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OF LATE TO MAKE HIS DEPARTMENT MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE
MEXICAN PUBLIC IN A REFORM PROGRAM THAT HE CALLS "PROGRAMA
DE REFORMA DE VENTANILLAS (OPEN DOOR POLICY) AND WE BE-
LIEVE THAT HE IS SINCERE IN HIS DESIRE TO INSTITUTE
REFORMS. HOWEVER, ALTHOUGH THE COMPUTER SYSTEM CAN BE
USED FOR THE TASKS WHICH FLORES STATED, AS WELL AS FOR
OTHER TASKS, HE DID NOT MENTION THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF

THE SYSTEM, WHICH WAS IN FACT ESTABLISHED FOR THE PURPOSE OF AIDING IN THE SUPPRESSION OF NARCOTIC TRAFFICKING AND WHICH WAS FUNDED, IN PART, BY THE USG AS PART OF OUR ANTI-NARCOTIC PROGRAM. BACK IN FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR WHEN FLORES FIRST ANNOUNCED HIS SECRETARIAT'S PLAN FOR THE COMPUTER, HE STRESSED THE ADMINISTRATIVE USES OF THE COMPUTER. AT THAT TIME HE DID MENTION A POSSIBLE USE OF THE COMPUTER FOR NARCOTIC CONTROL BUT DID NOT MENTION ANY USG PARTICIPATION IN THE PROJECT.

3. COMMENT: IT IS INTERESTING AND HEARTENING TO NOTE FLORES' STATED COMMITMENT TO A CAMPAIGN AGAINST "HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS" (FLORES' WORDS) WHICH CAN POSSIBLY OCCUR WHEN A MEXICAN CITIZEN COMES IN CONTACT WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. FLORES, THROUGH THIS STATEMENT AND HIS OTHER REFORMS, DEMONSTRATES THAT THE GOM IS TRYING TO CURB THE NON-INSTITUTIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS WHICH SOMETIMES OCCUR IN MEXICO.

IT IS ALSO INTERESTING, BUT HARDLY SURPRISING, THAT THERE WAS NO MENTION OF THE PRIMARY TASK OF THE COMPUTER IN FLORES' ANNOUNCEMENT AND IN THE RECENT COVERAGE BY THE MEXICAN MEDIA OF THE OPENING OF THE SYSTEM. FOR EXAMPLE, EL NACIONAL, THE QUASI-OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER, HEADLINED
E
DPORES' ANNOUNCEMENT AND WAXED LYRICAL OVER THE STATED
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BENEFITS OF THE SYSTEM IN A LEAD EDITORIAL. THE FACT THAT THE GOM HAS A COMPUTER PARTIALLY FUNDED BY THE USG AND WHICH, THROUGH THE EMBASSY, WILL EVENTUALLY RECEIVE DATA FROM THE DEA'S EL PASO INTELLIGENCE CENTER, WOULD OPEN THE GOM TO ALL SORTS OF CRITICISM FROM LEFTIST AND NATIONALISTIC ELEMENTS. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT BECAUSE OF MEXICAN SENSITIVITIES OVER THIS ISSUE, ALL OFFICIAL USG COMMENT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMPUTER SYSTEM AND ITS USG CONNECTION BE KEPT TO THE MINIMUM. LUCEY

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